In the office of the Registrar General of India Report 'Causes of Death-2001-03 in India', nutritional deficiencies are reported to be responsible for only 2.8% death of children aged 0-4 years and 2% death of infants. The Infant Mortality Rate is 55 and Child Mortality Rate is 16 per 1000 deaths (RGI report No. 2 of 2008).

Undernutrition in children under five years is 42.5% in our country as per National Family Health Survey-3 in 2005-06.

(c) The Government accords high priority to overall issue of malnutrition, and particularly, in respect of children. With this in view, Government has universalized ICDS scheme with increased financial provision in 2009-10 for expansion of Anganwadi centers as well as for higher nutritional norms for providing supplementary nutrition to the children below 6 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers.

The various schemes being implemented by different Ministries which directly or indirectly improve the nutritional status of children are given in the Statement. [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 2764 part (c).]

Child marriage

†2766. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the extent to which the proposal and the recommendations made by the Law Commission pertaining to prevention of child marriage in 2008 have proved to be effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): The recommendations pertaining to "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006" made by the Law Commission of India in its 205th Report on "Proposal to Amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and Other Allied Laws" of 2008, have not been accepted by the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Effectiveness of ICDS

2767. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 30 years of Integrated Child Development Services programme has not curtailed growing number of malnourished children in the country;

(b) if so, whether 42 per cent *i.e.* 61 million of children below 5 years of age are underweight and suffer from malnutrition;

(c) if so, whether the Minister has announced 14 lakhs Anganwadi centres across the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, whether India notches $10 billion productivity loss each year due to under-nutrition; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not implementing the programme fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (e) Launched in 1975 with 33 Projects and 4891 Anganwadi Centres [AWCs], the Scheme was gradually expanded to 5652 Projects and 6 lakh sanctioned AWCs in the country, by the end of IX Plan. The coverage of ICDS was thus not universal as it covered only about 42% of the 14 lakh habitations.

The Scheme has been expanded in three phases in the years 2005-06, 2007-08 and 2008-09. With these expansions, total number of sanctioned AWCs/Mini-AWCs increased from 6 lakh, as on 31.3.2002 to 13.56 lakh, as on 31.3.2009 [125% increase]. The Government has approved 7076 Projects and 14 lakh AWCs.

Under ICDS Scheme 'Supplementary Nutrition' is provided as a gap filling efforts between Recommended Dietary Allowance [RDA] and Average Dietary Intake [ADI].

The problem of malnutrition is not only the result of single cause but is a multifaceted, acting singly or in combination with other complex factors, the determinants of which include health care, poor sanitation and safe drinking water, illiteracy, poverty, food availability etc. Early marriage of girls, teenage pregnancies resulting in low birth weight of new borns, poor breast feeding and poor complementary feeding practices, ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children and repeated infections farther aggravate the situation.

As per the findings of National Family Health Survey [NFHS], the level of malnutrition amongst children below 3 years has declined from 42.7% in 1998-99 [NFHS-2] to 40.4% in 2005-06[NFHS-3]. As per NFHS-3 Survey, the level of malnutrition amongst children below 5 years is 42.5%.

In a report captioned "National Strategy to Reduce Childhood Malnutrition" [December, 1997], prepared by Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad, the estimated annual productivity loss due to major malnutrition disorders in India ranged between 10-28 billion US S in 1996, accounting for 3-9% of Gross Domestic Product [GDP].

The Government is committed to universalize the Scheme of Integrated Child Development Services [ICDS] so as to cover all the habitations, with special focus on SC/ST and Minority habitations, across the country. Accordingly, the States have been directed to operationalse all sanctioned Projects and AWCs as well as comply with Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order in this regard.

Starvation and malnutrition

†2768. SHRMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.